

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7, and 9-20 are currently pending in this case, Claims 2-4, 7, and 9-11 have been amended, and Claims 1, 6, and 8 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,272,153 to Huang et al. Claims 2-4, 7 and 9-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 5, and 12-20 and the indication that Claims 2-4, 7 and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

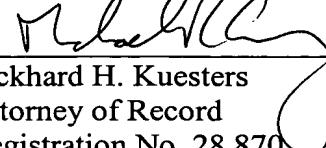
The rejected claims are canceled by the present Amendment. Furthermore, Claims 2-4, 7, and 9-11 have been amended to include all the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims, thereby placing them in condition for allowance as well.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870


Michael R. Casey, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,294

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)